

# Making Jesus Real in Kindergarten

The theme of the Kinder program is Friendship and is linked to the movie *Charlotte's Web*. Each session begins with a prayer around a prayer focus with a song eg, "Will you come and follow me", a reading, quiet intentions, whatever suits your group.

This plan involves 4 sessions for the group approximately half a day each term. The students concentrate on positive body language with distribution of worksheets, the students say thanks, they might high five or thumbs up, etc.

## Session 1

Introduce the WEST concept, explaining the word WEST really stands for someone who is welcoming, encouraging, they say sorry and thanks. Use the WEST poster to highlight the parts.

Concentrating only on the W for Welcoming. Students are given an explanation of how we could recognize a welcoming person.

Then students act out the ways they can be welcoming, concentrating on the body language, tone of voice, etc.

Ask students to show welcoming faces to each other.

Students draw themselves welcoming.

An outside activity could involve students playing and practicing WESTIE ways of speaking to each other, eg. come and play with us, let's all play together, etc.

Ballgames Pass and Praise: children pass the ball to someone and then add something nice about them, such as "This ball is for Billy, he is friendly". That child then responds with "Thanks". Give the children the chance to encourage others. Praise those who are encouraging others.

Introduce the EAST poster. Arrange for some older students, possibly Year 5 or 6 to dramatise each of the EAST elements:

- Exclude
- Annoy and argue
- Sulk
- Talk back

Draw a picture for each box on the EAST page.

Then show the first quarter of the movie *Charlotte's Web*, pointing out the WESTIE behaviour in the movie.

## **Session 2**

Begin with a prayer around the theme of Encouraging and Welcoming.

Revise the characteristics of a Welcoming person covered in the previous session.

Introduce the E from WEST for Encouraging.

Demonstrate ways children can encourage others in games, in class, at home, etc.

Children draw encouraging behaviour.

Students turn to Happy Chappy page and receive an explanation from the teacher, talking about all the ways they can show they are Happy Chappys and are then given time to colour it in.

Then turn to the Nasty Pastie page discussing the ways people can be Nasty Pasties and complete the worksheet.

Organise another activity involving the opportunity to encourage others and welcome them in to a game. It could be a ballgame or even free play, allowing time to observe the children being Happy Chappys.

Watch the next section of *Charlotte's Web* looking for examples of Welcoming and Encouraging behaviour.

Children complete the New Friends page.

## Session 3

Begin with a prayer or song

Revise the qualities of a WESTIE

Talk about the Charlotte's Web movie and remind the students of Wilbur making many new friends at the farm. They can complete the sheet "New Friends" and draw a picture of themselves with their new friends.

Watch that part of the movie again to remind the students 13:15 - 24:46

Talk about the skills involved when making new friends;  
we listen to each other,  
tell others about ourselves - our family, hobbies and interests  
we make eye contact  
we don't boast  
we show interest in the other person

Demonstrate people making new friends with a role play

Students complete the "My Portrait" page drawing themselves with family, hobbies and interests

Allow time for students to introduce themselves to someone else, using their name and something interesting about themselves and then a question.

Eg. Hello my name is..... I am a Hawthorn supporter..... What football team do you like?

Charlotte always encourages Wilbur to keep trying.

Role play some encouraging scenarios

Eg, tying a shoelace, running in a race, playing on the flying fox

Complete the worksheet where the students draw themselves encouraging their friends

WIIFMs - explain the meaning and work through the worksheet - how to be a giver not a taker. Students draw themselves being a giver.

Explain the real friends are givers not takers.

Watch the next section of Charlottes Web. Ask students to look for the examples of givers and takers in the movie.

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